



# JUDY BAAR TOPINKA

## Comptroller

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Judy Baar Topinka (Republican) was sworn in as State Comptroller on Jan. 10, 2011, becoming the first woman in Illinois history to serve in two state constitutional offices. Topinka also served as State Treasurer from 1995 to 2007, the first woman to hold the office and the first State Treasurer to be re-elected to three consecutive terms.

A recognized and respected taxpayer watchdog, Topinka has a reputation for speaking up against the mismanagement of public funds. She brings experience, integrity and sound judgment to state government, and puts her common-sense standards to work for the people of Illinois.

As State Comptroller, Topinka has prioritized efficiency, transparency and accountability. She successfully pushed for legislation moving state employees and vendors to electronic payments, thereby improving efficiency and saving on paper and postage costs. In 2012, Comptroller Topinka raised the bar for state government transparency by launching *The Ledger*, a state financial website that allows taxpayers to click their way through everything from the state's daily receipts and bill backlog numbers to agency budgets and employee salaries. A year later Topinka launched *The Warehouse*, an online resource that allows taxpayers to view and compare Local Government Annual Financial Reports and Audits.

Comptroller Topinka has built on her record of constituent service by creating a Consumer Affairs Division, enabling residents to access information about the office and guiding them to the appropriate state agencies for services. The division also operates the Take Charge Illinois program to assist taxpayers in dealing with budgeting, identity theft, credit repair and other financial challenges.

Topinka took a business-oriented approach to the State Treasurer's office, streamlining banking, collection and investment processes; utilizing the latest technology; and accumulating record investment earnings for the state. She also developed low-interest loan programs to encourage community and job development and provide financial support for vital social-service programs.

Topinka began her public service to the state of Illinois in 1980 when she won a seat in the Illinois House representing the western suburbs of Chicago. Serving two terms as a state Representative positioned her for a successful bid for the state Senate in 1984, where she served for a decade before being elected State Treasurer in 1994. Topinka belongs to more than 60 business and professional organizations, including the City Club of Chicago, Government Finance Officers Association and the Western Chapter of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority.

Topinka was born in Riverside and earned her B.S. degree in 1966 from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Upon graduation, she became a reporter for several award-winning suburban Chicago newspapers, and eventually rose through the ranks to become an editor.

Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka resides in her hometown of Riverside. She has a son who is a major in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and a granddaughter.

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